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Letter dated 2 September 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 2 September 1998, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex, which contains a letter of His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, concerning the proposals of 31 August 1998 made to Mr. Glafkos Clerides, the leader of the Greek Cypriot administration, towards a viable and just settlement of the Cyprus dispute, would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 2 September 1998 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the letter dated 2 September 1998 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, concerning the proposals of 31 August 1998 made to Mr. Glafkos Clerides, the leader of the Greek Cypriot administration, towards a viable and just settlement of the Cyprus dispute (see appendix).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its appendix would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

APPENDIX

Letter dated 2 September 1998 from Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the proposals I have made to Mr. Glafkos Clerides, the leader of the Greek Cypriot administration on 31 August 1998, towards a viable and just settlement of the Cyprus dispute (see enclosure).

The said proposals, which are self-explanatory, have been made in good faith with a view to creating the basis on which negotiations between true equals can take place. They present an historic opportunity for the final settlement of this long-standing dispute and, if seized upon, will contribute to the strengthening of peace and stability in our entire region. I am sure you will appreciate the particular importance of this, at a time when the other side is engaged in policies raising tension and perpetuating division on the island.

You will no doubt observe that our proposals uphold the principle of the equality of the two peoples on the island. This equality, which was enshrined in the 1960 Agreements, has always been the fundamental basis of the search for a solution in Cyprus in the exercise of the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General. Furthermore, the proposals aim to uphold and strengthen the all-too-important balance between Turkey and Greece over Cyprus established by the Agreements and the state of affairs created by them.

We sincerely hope that, in spite of its initial reaction, the Greek Cypriot side, after serious consideration of this constructive initiative, will give a positive response in a reciprocal spirit of goodwill. We trust that both Your Excellency and all those who wish to contribute to the settlement of this dispute will urge the Greek Cypriot side to do so.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its enclosure could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rauf R. DENKTAŞ
President

ENCLOSURE

Proposal for a lasting solution in Cyprus issued at Lefkoşa on 31 August 1998 by President Rauf R. Denktaş

As a final effort to achieve a mutually acceptable lasting solution in Cyprus, I propose the establishment of the Cyprus Confederation based on the following arrangements:

1. A special relationship between Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on the basis of agreements to be concluded.

2. A similar special relationship between Greece and the Greek Cypriot administration on the basis of symmetrical agreements to be concluded.

3. Establishment of a Cyprus Confederation between the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the Greek Cypriot administration.

4. The 1960 Guarantee System shall continue.

5. The Cyprus Confederation may, if parties jointly agree, pursue a policy of accession to the European Union. Until Turkey's full membership in the European Union, a special arrangement will provide Turkey with the full rights and obligations of a member of the Union with regard to the Cyprus Confederation.

The ultimate aim of the negotiations will thus be a partnership settlement which will be a confederated structure composed of two peoples and of two States of the island supported by symmetrical agreements with the two respective motherlands and Guarantor States. All rights and powers which are not referred to the confederal entity will reside with the two confederated States. Any agreement to be reached as a result of the negotiations will be submitted for approval in separate referenda.

By participating in these negotiations the parties will acknowledge that the Greek and Turkish Cypriot sides are two sovereign and equal States, each with its own functioning democratic institutions and jurisdiction, reflecting the political equality and will of their respective peoples. They will also acknowledge that the authorities of one party do not represent the other.

We believe that only this structure:

(a) Will provide for the security of both sides;

(b) Will safeguard their identity and well-being.

If the Greek Cypriots agree to this final basis, we are ready to begin negotiations to establish the Cyprus Confederation.